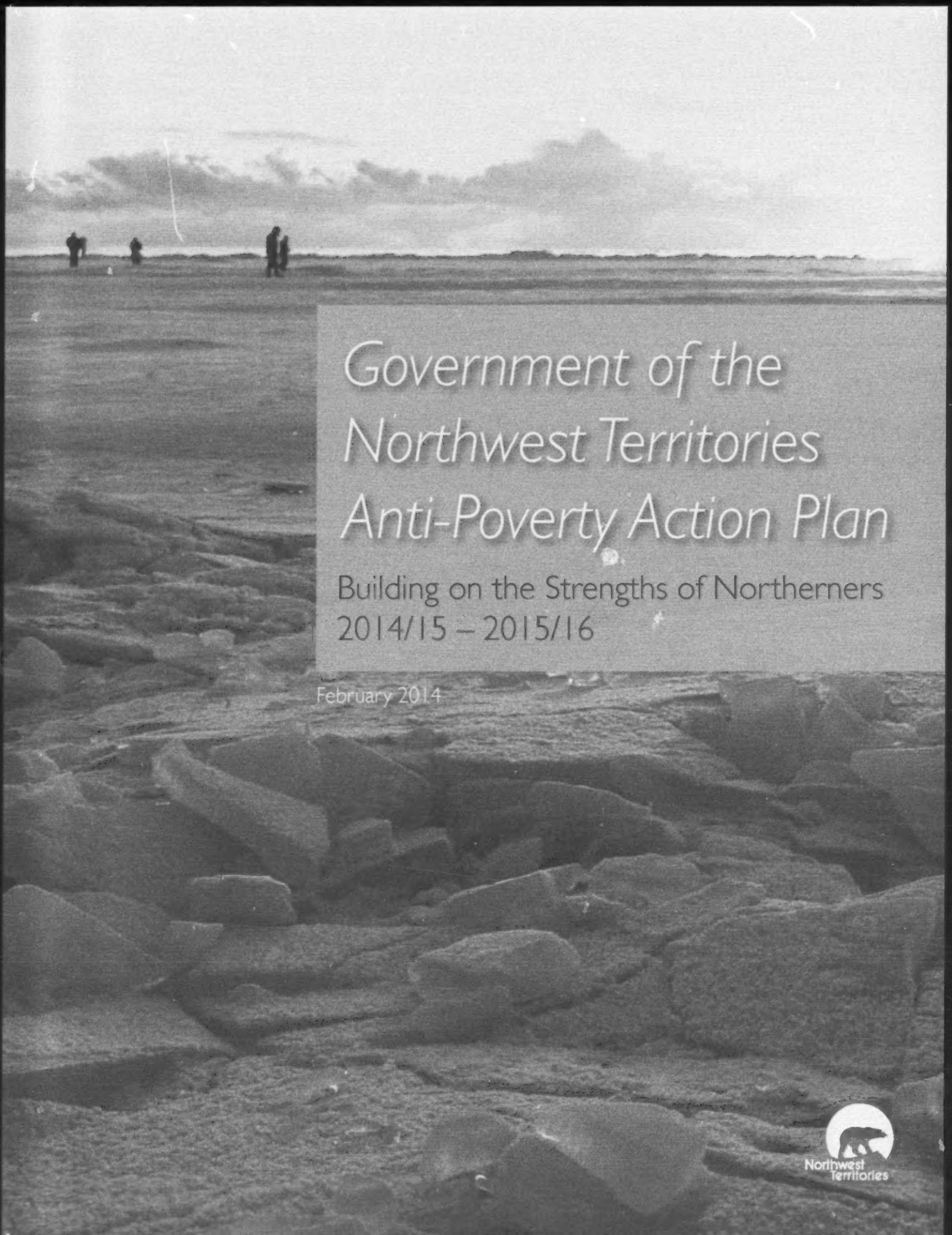
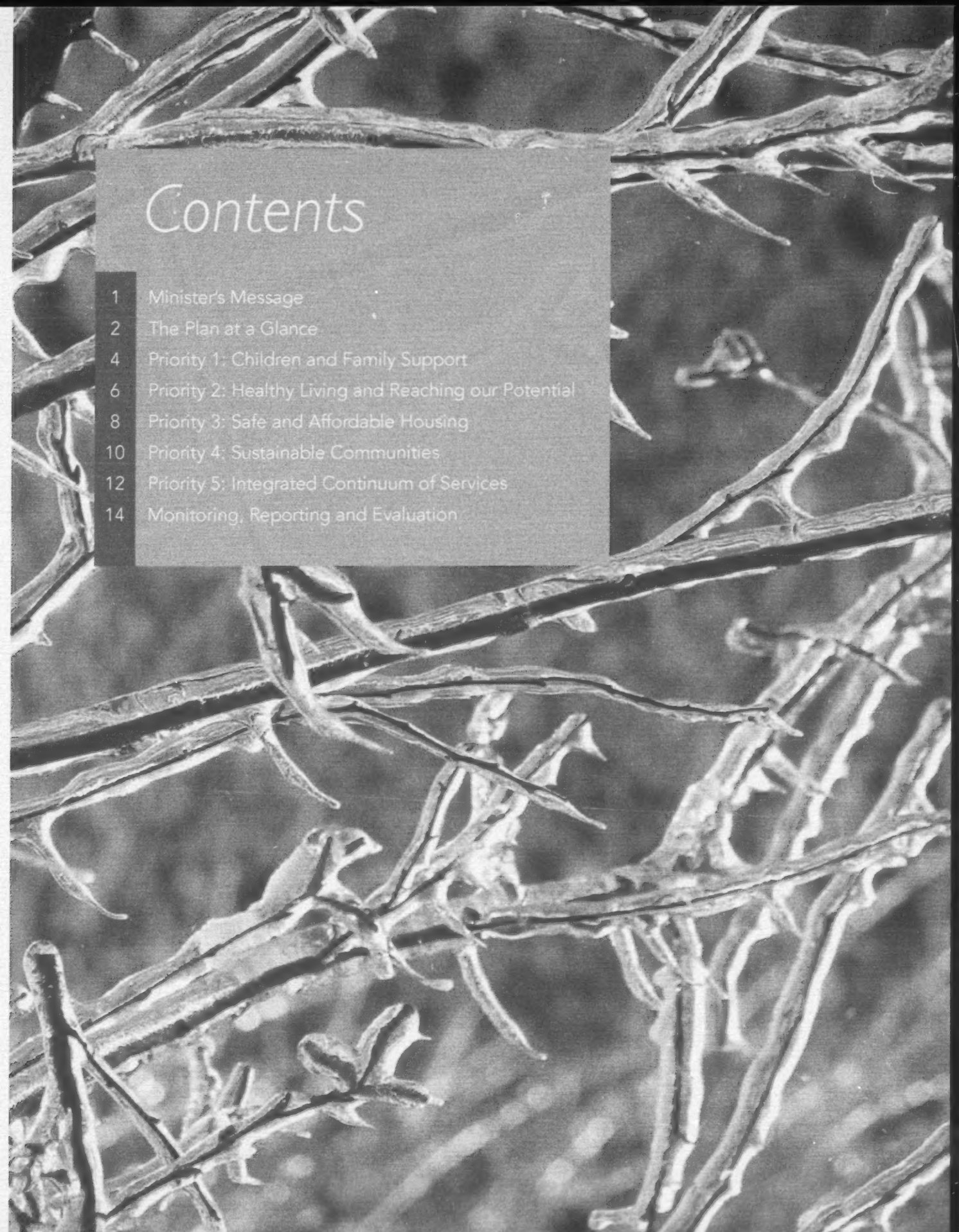


Government of the Northwest Territories Anti-Poverty Action Plan

Building on the Strengths of Northerners 2014/15 – 2015/16

February 2014

Northwest Territories



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Minister's Message

In June 2013, the anti-poverty strategic framework, Building on the Strengths of Northerners, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Building upon the strategic framework, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Anti-Poverty Action Plan describes our commitments to address the needs of those most vulnerable and those at-risk of falling into poverty, while promoting the prosperity necessary for the Northwest Territories (NWT) to grow.

Government alone cannot eliminate poverty. To that end, the GNWT is committed to continuing our work in partnership with non-government organizations, community and Aboriginal governments, business and industry and other partners towards the development of a multi-stakeholder NWT action plan.

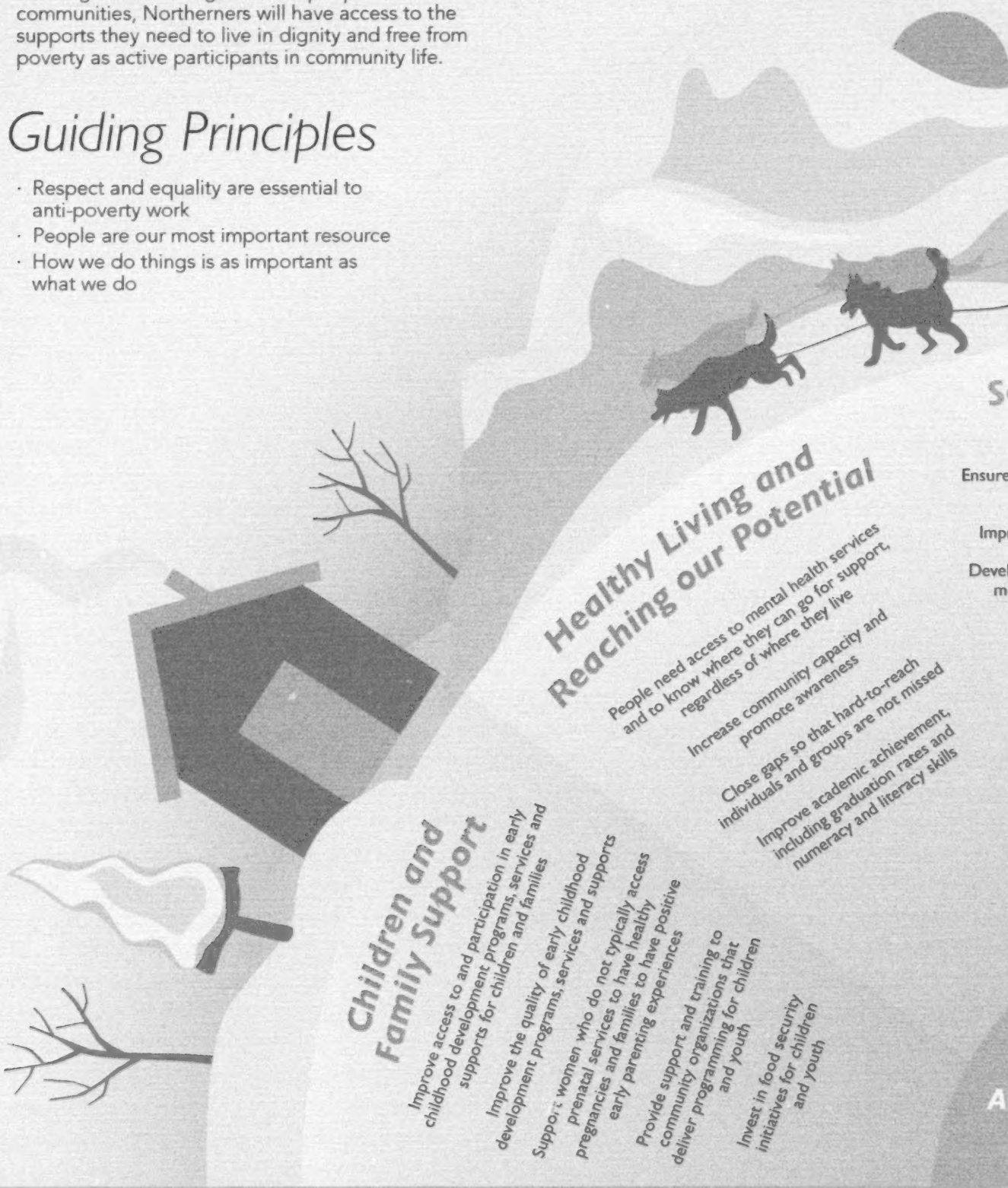
Glen Abernethy
Chair of the Social Envelope Committee of Cabinet

Vision

Building on the strengths of our people and communities, Northerners will have access to the supports they need to live in dignity and free from poverty as active participants in community life.

Guiding Principles

- Respect and equality are essential to anti-poverty work
- People are our most important resource
- How we do things is as important as what we do


Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential
People need access to mental health services and to know where they can go for support, regardless of where they live
Increase community capacity and promote awareness
Close gaps so that hard-to-reach individuals and groups are not missed
Improve academic achievement, including graduation rates and numeracy and literacy skills
Children and Family Support
Improve access to and participation in early childhood development programs, services and supports for children and families
Improve the quality of early childhood development programs, services and supports
Support women who do not typically access prenatal services to have healthy pregnancies and families to have positive early parenting experiences
Provide support and training to community organizations that deliver programming for children and youth
Invest in food security initiatives for children and youth

Plan at a Glance

fe and Affordable Housing

nore affordable housing is available to NWT residents on fixed or low income

ve housing quality in smaller communities

o a northern approach to the Housing First del that centres on quickly providing the homeless with housing and then providing additional services.

Sustainable Communities

Improve basic infrastructure to support business opportunities, reduce cost of living, and support the effective delivery of services

Diversify the economy through greater support for the traditional economy (arts and fine crafts, trapping), commercial agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism and small business enterprise

Support communities to identify and address safety concerns that threaten the ability of children and families to lead safe and healthy lives

Integrated Continuum of Services

Improve support for community-based organizations in the effective and efficient delivery of programs to meet the needs of residents

All orders of government and community-based organizations work together as partners on shared priorities

Access points to social programs and services need to be streamlined and simplified, including appropriate referrals.

Government of the Northwest Territories
ti-Poverty Action Plan

Priority 1 Children and Family Support

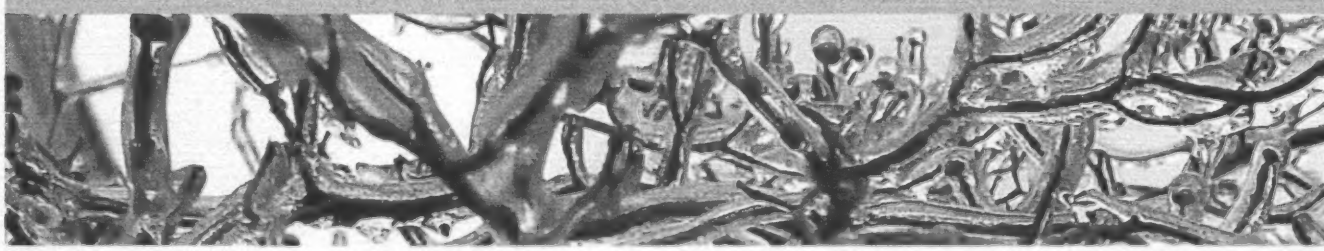
Area for Action	Rationale
Improve access to and participation in early childhood development programs and services and supports for children and families	Evidence shows that supporting and strengthening families most in need is crucial for tackling child poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty.
Improve the quality of early childhood development programs, services and supports	High quality early education and care programs directly impact children's healthy development. Such programs also provide education for parents and care givers in children's development at home.
Support women who do not typically access prenatal services to have healthy pregnancies and families to have positive early parenting experiences	To reach disadvantaged or at-risk populations, programs and services need to go where the people are. The environment must be inviting and familiar and be promoted in a non-stigmatizing, non-threatening way.
Provide support and training to community organizations that deliver programming for children and youth	Creating a supportive environment includes providing opportunities for sports, cultural activities and healthy lifestyle programs to increase motivation for school success, reduce stress and promote positive self-identity.
Invest in food security initiatives for children and youth	Research indicates that children who have sufficient and nutritious foods are more physically active, alert and attentive, attend school more often, achieve better academic results and have better general health and a positive disposition.

Goal: Children and families lead healthy lives free from poverty in a safe and nurturing environment

GNWT Commitment	Accountability
From the *Early Childhood Development Action Plan* · Expectant mothers will have access to evidence-based services that support improved outcomes for mom and baby (2014/15 and 2015/16 as outlined in the ECD Action Plan) · Early intervention programming aimed at infants, children and parents will be expanded (2014/15 and 2015/16 as outlined in the ECD Action Plan) · Early childhood assessment, intervention and responses will be improved (2014/15 and 2015/16 as outlined in the ECD Action Plan) · Coordination and integration will be improved across the continuum of ECD programs and services (2014/15 and 2015/16 as outlined in the ECD Action Plan)	Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Health and Social Services (HSS)
From the *Early Childhood Development Action Plan* · Promotion, awareness and education initiatives related to early childhood development are available to all families and communities (2014/15 and 2015/16 as outlined in the ECD Action Plan) · Access to high-quality, affordable early learning programs and childcare services are enhanced (2014/15 and 2015/16 as outlined in the ECD Action Plan)	ECE HSS
From the *Early Childhood Development Action Plan* · Provide nutrition support, education and training through community-based programs (2014/15) · Standardize referral protocols, ensuring that expectant mothers with addictions issues have timely access to treatment (2014/15)	HSS
Provide support and training to community organizations that deliver programming for children and youth to establish or improve services that: · Encourage physical literacy (2014/15) · Increase physical activity levels (2014/15) · Improve mental wellness and resiliency (2014/15) · Develop lifelong healthy choice practices (2014/15)	Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)
· Develop and implement a Healthy Eating Strategy in the NWT that will help to reduce childhood obesity, improve awareness and education to assist people to make healthy food choices while also promoting the consumption of traditional foods (2014/15) · Enhance the Healthy Food in Schools Program (2014/15) · Support for the Healthy Family Program Collective Kitchens (2014/15) · Support for the After School to provide healthy foods (2014/15) · Support for the Community Gardens Program (2014/15)	ECE MACA HSS Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI)

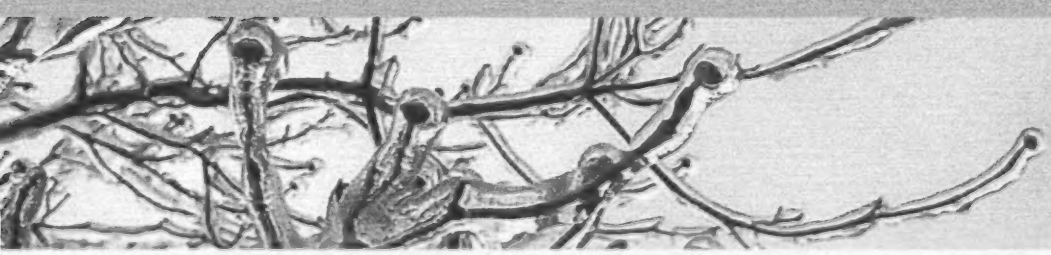
Priority 2 Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential

Area for Action	Rationale
People need access to mental health services and to know where they can go for support, regardless of where they live	People with mental health and addictions problems often experience significant barriers to securing adequate employment and education, and therefore live in chronic poverty.
Increase community capacity and promote awareness	Promoting greater awareness and acceptance of mental health issues and reducing stigma attached to them makes it easier and more acceptable for people to seek out services that can help them.
Close gaps so that hard-to-reach individuals and groups are not missed	To reach disadvantaged or at-risk populations, programs and services need to go where the people are. The environment must be inviting and familiar and be promoted in a non-stigmatizing and non-threatening way.
Improve academic achievement, including graduation rates and numeracy and literacy skills	The poverty cycle will not be broken until all NWT children are given the opportunity to thrive in school. A good education levels the playing field, ensuring that each and every child has the opportunity to live up to his or her potential.



Goal: NWT residents have access to the supports they need for healthy living and reaching their full potential.

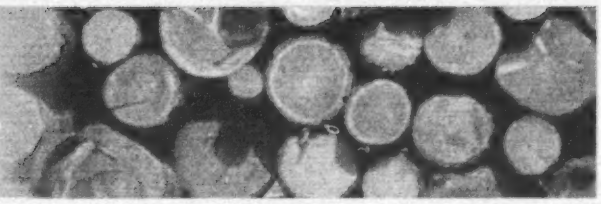
GNWT Commitment	Accountability
From the *Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan* · Pilot on-the-land early intervention healing programs (2014/15) · Explore options for providing mobile treatment (2014/15) · Continue to access a range of southern treatment placements in order to meet individual treatment needs (2013/14 and ongoing) · Develop options for withdrawal management in small, medium and large communities (2014/15) · Develop and implement a social marketing campaign that will firstly create awareness of what services are available, and secondly, motivate those who need the services to access them (2014/15)	HSS
From the *Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan* · Promote community capacity, awareness and acceptance for those individuals living with mental health and addictions issues by offering: - Mental Health First Aid Training (2014/15) - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) (2014/15) - Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) program in schools (2014/15) - "My Voice, My Choice" activities for youth (2014/15)	HSS
· Support the Yellowknife Day Shelter and day shelter programs in Inuvik (2013/14 and ongoing) · Develop and implement a pilot project to integrate case management for high-risk clients with mental health and addictions needs (2014/15)	HSS ECE Department of Justice (DOJ) NWT Housing Corporation (NWTHC)
· Implement Junior Kindergarten program for 4 year-olds (2014/15) · NWT Education Renewal Action Plan (under development)	ECE



Priority 3 Safe and Affordable Housing

Area for Action	Rationale
Ensure more affordable housing is available to NWT residents on fixed or low income	Shelter is pivotal to the long-term wellbeing of NWT residents and communities. Everyone should have access to safe and affordable housing.
Improve housing quality in smaller communities	Shelter is pivotal to the long-term wellbeing of NWT residents and communities. Everyone should have access to safe and affordable housing.
Develop a northern approach to the Housing First model that centres on quickly providing the homeless with housing and then providing additional services	Shelter is pivotal to the long-term wellbeing of NWT residents and communities. Everyone should have access to safe and affordable housing.

Goal: Everyone has a roof over their head and a safe and affordable place to call home.



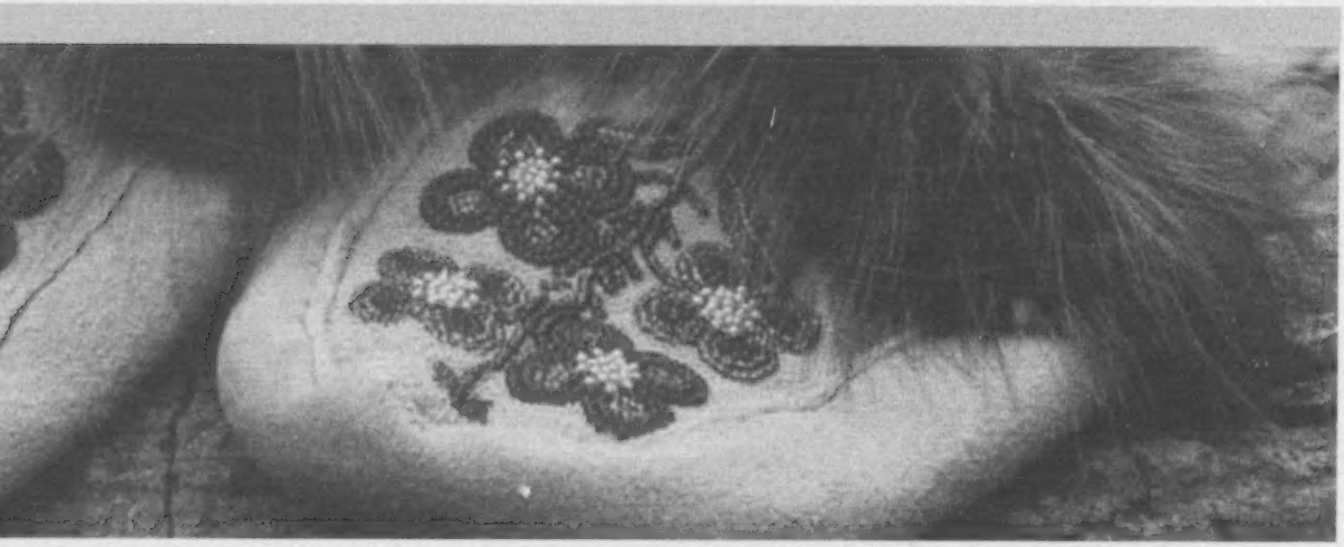
GNWT Commitment	Accountability
From the *NWT Housing Strategy* · Introduce an affordable, predictable public housing rent scale that addresses the disincentive to work (2012/13) · Implement a rent supplement program for low income residents in market rentals with affordability problems (2012/13) · Revise the home ownership subsidy programs to expand the number of potential clients, recognize differences between market and non-market communities, and make home ownership a more affordable option (2013/2014) · Make targeted investments to increase the number of independent housing units for seniors (2014/15 and 2015/16)	NWTHC
From the *NWT Housing Strategy* · Change approach to repair programs to ensure low and modest income homeowners have access to support for emergency repairs, preventative maintenance and repairs to address health and safety concerns (2013/14 and 2014/15) · Make incremental investments to improve the quality of the public housing stock (2014/15 and 2015/16)	NWTHC
· Undertake a research project on the development of a Housing First model that would be appropriate for NWT market communities with input from housing stakeholders (2014/15) · Implement an initiative to address issues associated with the "hard to house" in smaller NWT communities where emergency or transitional housing is not available (2014/15)	NWTHC

Priority 4 Sustainable Communities

Area for Action	Rationale
Improve basic infrastructure to support business opportunities, reduce cost of living, and support the effective delivery of services	By increasing opportunities for individuals seeking employment, reducing barriers relating to employability and building a skilled workforce we can contribute to the overall sustainability of communities and provide opportunities for individuals to enter and remain in the workforce.
Diversify the economy through greater support for the traditional economy (arts and fine crafts, trapping), commercial agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism and small business enterprise	Increases in economic opportunities will contribute to the overall sustainability of communities.
Support communities to identify and address safety concerns that threaten the ability of children and families to lead safe and healthy lives	Crime, violence and substance abuse continue to be issues in northern communities. These issues can create a cycle of harm that damages the sense of belonging, safety and wellness.

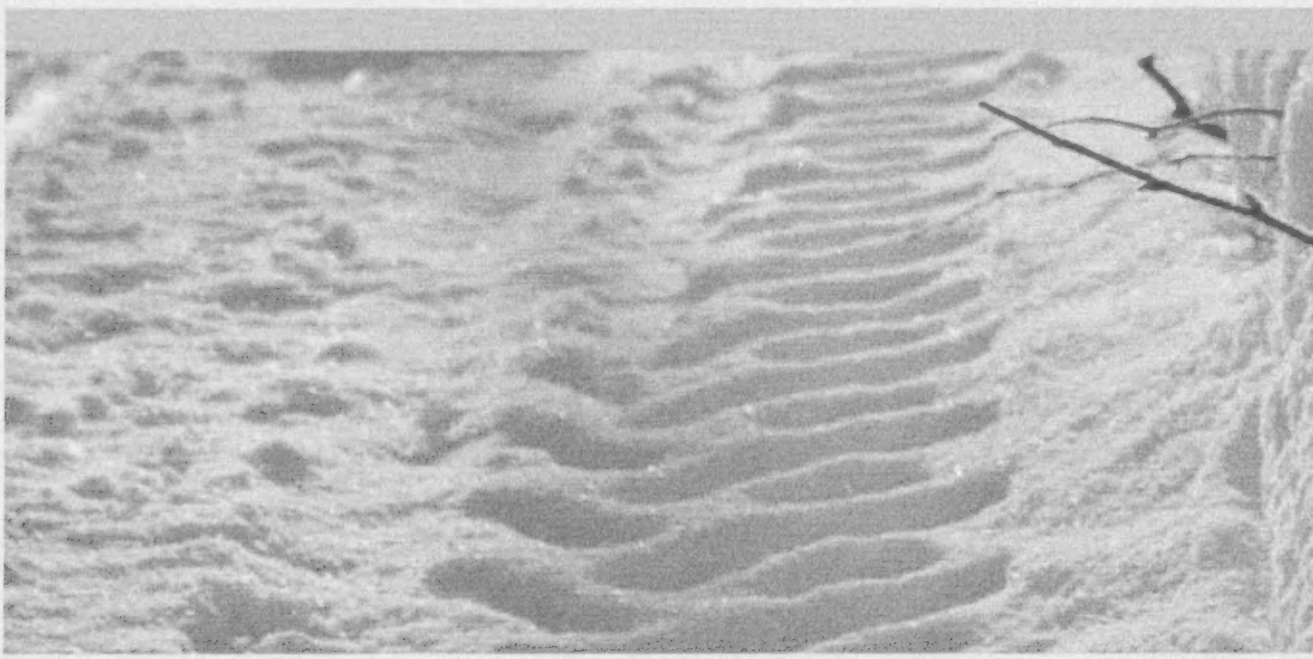
Goal: Sustainable communities managing their resources based on current need while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.

GNWT Commitment	Accountability
From the *Economic Opportunities Strategy* · Support and expand programs and public information initiatives related to promoting employment opportunities (2014/15) · Build on existing wellness programs with a social media campaign linking healthy lifestyles with employment and career success (2014/15) · Establish a program to connect NWT students directly with industry representatives and local role models to promote education and career development (2014/15)	ITI Healthy Choices Partners
From the *Economic Opportunities Strategy* · Engage the private sector to increase support to the GNWT's Take a Kid Trapping program (2014/15) · Create a mentorship program for adults pursuing a return to harvesting · Examine opportunities to incorporate traditional economic activities into social wellness and healing programs (2014/15)	ITI HSS ECE
· Support communities to build trust and confidence in their ability to identify and address community safety concerns (2013/14 – 2015/16) · Work with communities to identify community-based resources, partners and supports that may be drawn upon to address safety issues (2013/14 – 2015/16) · Assist communities with the development of safety plans and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the plans (2013/14 – 2015/16)	DOJ



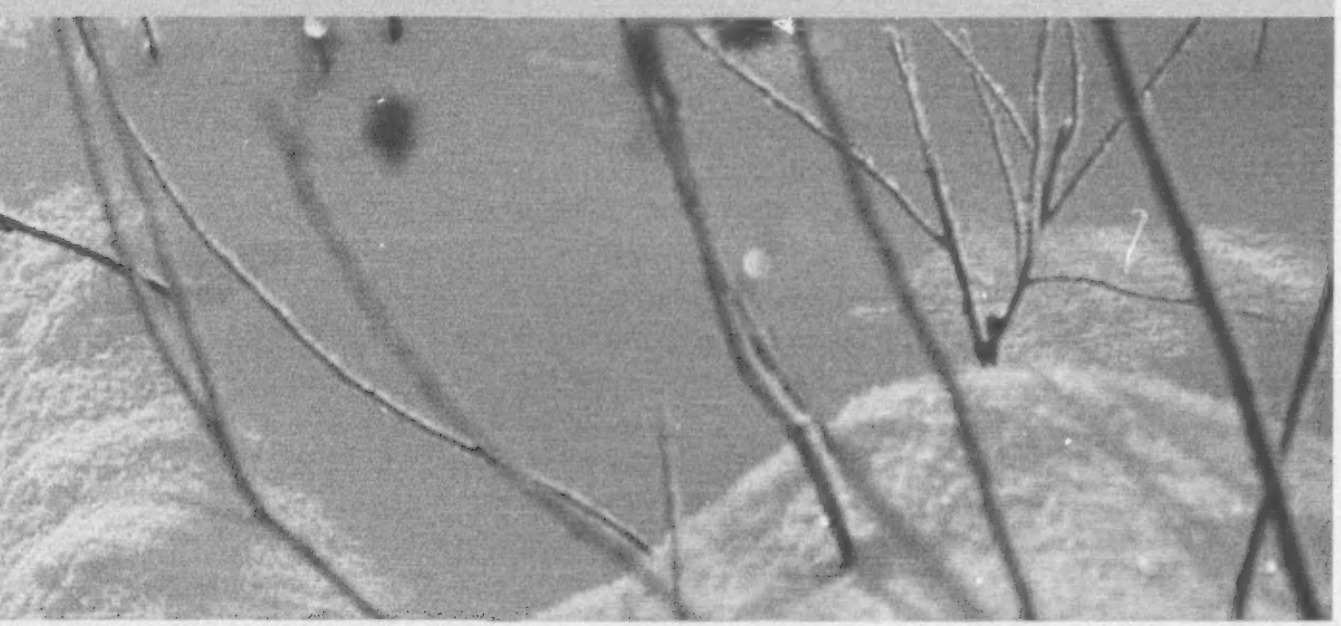
Priority 5 Integrated Continuum of Services

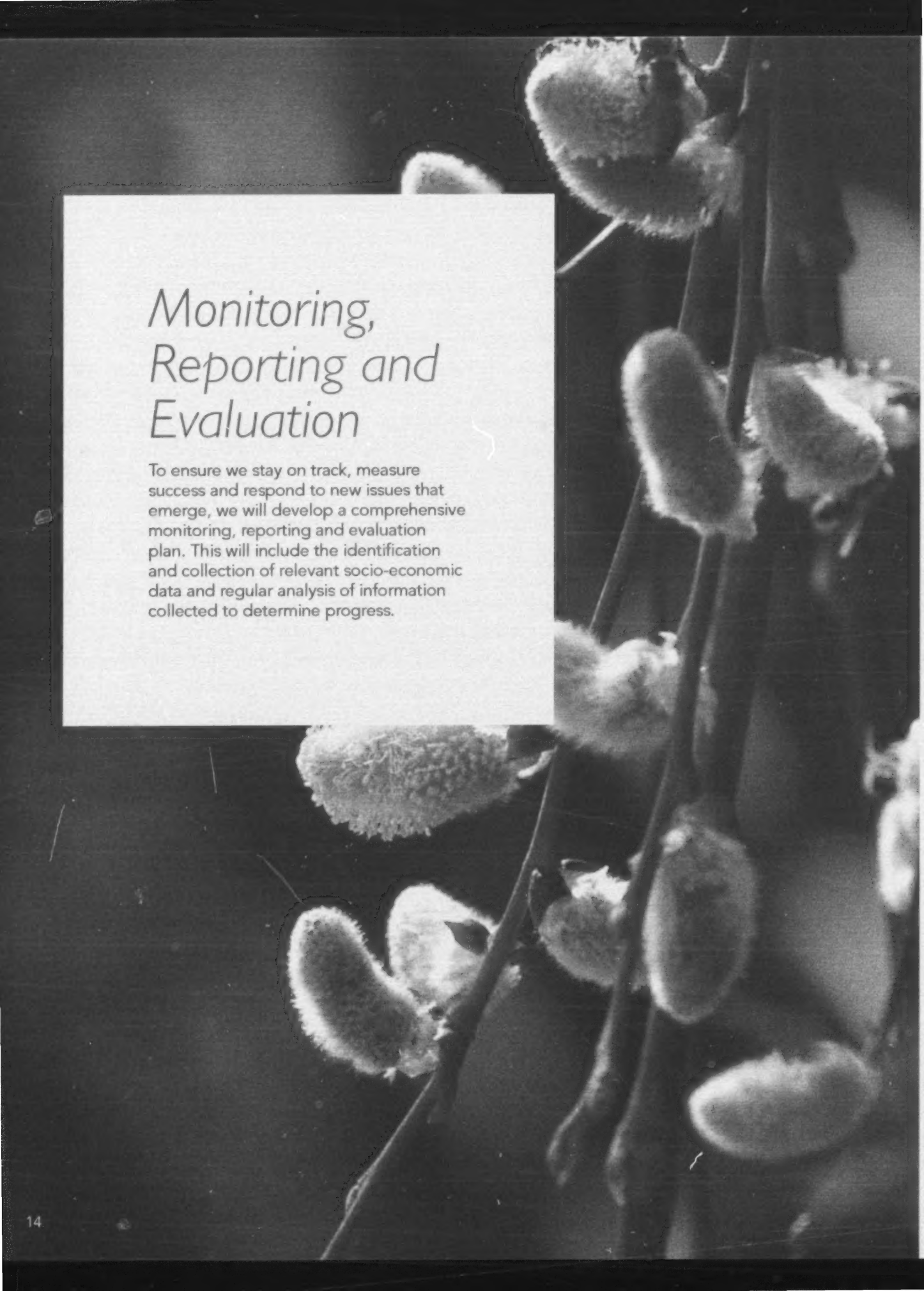
Area for Action	Rationale
Improve support for community-based organizations in the effective and efficient delivery of programs to meet the needs of residents	Ensure multi-year funding to stabilize programming and reduce administrative burden.
All orders of government and community-based organizations work together as partners on shared priorities	With strong leadership from the GNWT, all stakeholders will organize around shared interests and partner to build system capacity.
Access points to social programs and services need to be streamlined and simplified, including appropriate referrals	Poverty is a result of a diverse array of social, cultural and economic circumstances. There is a need for coordination, collaboration and a commitment to partnerships among all levels of government so that programs and services are accessible and available.



Goal: NWT residents receive a continuum of integrated services according to their needs.

GNWT Commitment	Accountability
· Enter into a 5 year (2013-18) block funding agreement with Health Canada for the delivery of community-based wellness programs. The block agreement will allow eligible communities to enter into multi-year agreements for wellness funding (2014/15)	HSS
· Increase collaboration between government departments and non-government organizations that provide programs and services for youth, such as Take a Kid Trapping, Youth Centres and After School Programs (2014/15) · Establish a funding program for non-government organizations, Aboriginal organizations and community based organizations to advance specific priorities of the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework (2014/15) · Provide support for an annual multi-stakeholder meeting to establish priorities and review the results of actions undertaken by the GNWT and other partners (2014/15)	DOJ MACA ITI HSS
· Develop an integrated, team-based "wrap around" service plan to support families at-risk and implement in targeted communities (2014/15) · Develop integrated case management approach to support establishment of specialized courts (2014/15)	ECE HSS DOJ NWTHC





Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

To ensure we stay on track, measure success and respond to new issues that emerge, we will develop a comprehensive monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan. This will include the identification and collection of relevant socio-economic data and regular analysis of information collected to determine progress.

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ā nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwēsinēn.

Cree

ʔerihtł'ís dëne sųłiné yati t'a huts'elkër xa beyéyati theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ën yółti.

Chipewyan

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces renseignements en français, contactez-nous.

Français

Jii gwandak izhii ginjìk vat'atr'ijąhch'uu zhìt yinohthan jì', diits'àt ginohknìi.

Gwich'in

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

ᑕᕐᔪᐊ ᑎᑎᖅᑲᓪᓚᑦ ᐱᓕᒍᔪᐊᓕᑦ ᐃᓄᖅᑎᑕᖅᓯᒪᓕᒃᑎᑎᒃ, ᐅᕙᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐅᖃᓕ ᓴᓇᖅᑐᑎᑦ.

Inuktitut

UVANITTUAQ ILITCHURISUKUPKU INUVIALUKTUN, QUQUAQLUTA.

Inuvialuktun

K'éhshó got'ıne xədǝ́ k'é hederi ʔedıhtl'é yeriniwę nídé dúle.

North Slavey

Edi gondı dehgéh got'ıe zhatié k'ǫ́ǫ́ edatł'éh enahddhę nide naxets'é edahí.

South Slavey

Tłıchǫ yati k'ètè dè wegodì wek'èhoızǫ nęęwǫ dè, gots'ǫ̀ goahde.

Tłıchǫ

Aboriginal Languages Coordinator: 867-920-6251

Francophone Affairs Secretariat: 867-920-3107

Northwest
Territories